

French Legion of Honor, and has been honored with his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and

Whereas Jack Valenti will be remembered as a dedicated family man, a philanthropist, a voice for copyright owners, a true visionary whose devotion, intelligence, creativity, and wisdom transformed the film industry, and as Hollywood's ultimate leading man: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* That the Senate honors the life of Jack Valenti, a pioneer in the fields of motion pictures and public service, a dedicated family man, and a legendary figure in the history of the United States.

#### NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 183.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 183) supporting the goals and ideals of National Charter Schools Week, April 30, 2007, through May 4, 2007.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to honor National Charter School Week. The role of charter schools has become increasingly important as these institutions have become one of the fastest growing innovative forces in education policy. The District of Columbia and 40 States have laws that allow charter schools. There are over 4,000 public charter schools serving more than 1.1 million students and there are many more students on waiting lists who want to attend.

As many of you know, I have been a part of that charter school growth, both here in Washington, DC, and in my home, Louisiana. Today, more than 30 percent of all DC public school students attend charter schools and are largely successful. These charter school projects are largely successful. These charter schools not only help to better educate students, but are also helping to build a better, stronger, more prosperous city.

In addition to having an impact in Washington, DC, charter schools are also helping to rebuild the school system in New Orleans. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita did not just wash away our levees—they also washed away our homes and schools. We must seize upon this opportunity and build a better, stronger school system for New Orleans and throughout Louisiana.

Charter schools are key players in this process by not only rebuilding our school system, but reinventing it. Every step in this process is based on what is best for our students, with the goal of delivering learning and achievement for all students. The new school system effectively eliminates the previous system of have and have-nots, allowing parents to choose from any school in the network, making quality school options available to all students and raising the bar for educators throughout the system.

The new Educational Network Model will organize schools, the majority of them charters, into small groups to provide support, foster collaboration and ensure accountability. This will shift the majority of money and decisionmaking to the school level, where it can be managed based on the needs of the students in each school. It will also create a lean district office focused on academic standards and performance monitoring, allowing more dollars to go to schools. Finally, it will migrate toward a single, aligned and highly-effective governing board that provides a stable leadership team with skills to oversee successful implementation of the plan.

Today, over 50 percent of our schools in New Orleans have reopened as charter schools. They have provided us with an expedient means to restart public education in New Orleans. It is my hope that we can continue this trend by utilizing the Educational Network Model for these schools and others nationwide by engaging community involvement and support through a shared services model.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 183) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 183

Whereas charter schools deliver high-quality education and challenge students to reach their potential;

Whereas charter schools provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by designated public entities to respond to the needs of communities, families, and students, and to promote the principles of quality, choice, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, charter schools are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their finances and other operations;

Whereas 40 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas more than 4,000 charter schools operating across the United States serve more than 1,140,000 students;

Whereas, over the last 13 years, Congress has provided more than \$2,026,225,000 in support to the charter school movement by providing facilities, financing assistance, and grants for planning, startup, implementation, and dissemination of information;

Whereas many charter schools improve the achievement of students and stimulate improvement in traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools must meet the student achievement accountability requirements under section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311) in the same manner as tradi-

tional public schools, and often set higher and additional individual goals to ensure that charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools give parents new freedom to choose public schools, routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and must prove their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and communities;

Whereas nearly 56 percent of charter schools report having a waiting list, and the total number of students on all such waiting lists is enough to fill over 1,100 average-sized charter schools;

Whereas charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public school system;

Whereas charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the President, Congress, State governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States; and

Whereas the eighth annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held April 30 through May 4, 2007, is an event sponsored by charter schools and grassroots charter school organizations across the United States to recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges and commends charter schools and students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening the public school system;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of the eighth annual National Charter Schools Week; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools during this week-long celebration in communities throughout the United States.

#### NATIONAL CHILDHOOD STROKE AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 184.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 184) expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to childhood stroke and designating May 5, 2007 as "National Childhood Stroke Awareness Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 184) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S RES. 184

Whereas a stroke, also known as a "cerebrovascular accident", is an acute neurologic injury that occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is interrupted by a clot in the artery or a burst of the artery;